

stand each constitutes: which probably could have been ascertained roughly with very little extra effort.

ROLAND M. HARPER

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

FEBRUARY 12, 1918

The meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Richards presided. There were thirty-five persons present.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with. The secretary read notices of the death of Miss Elizabeth Jacobs and Miss Rosalie Schumacher, members of the Club for many years.

The nomination and election of Miss Bernice Jenkins, 103 East 16th Street, New York City, and Miss Caroline Seifert, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., followed.

The announced scientific program consisted of a lecture on "Botanical Exploration in Colombia" by Professor H. H. Rusby. Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE, *Secretary*

FEBRUARY 27, 1918

The meeting was held in the Morphological Laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. Vice-President Barnhart presided. There were twenty-six persons present.

The minutes of the meetings held January 30 and February 12 were read and approved.

Under the head of new business Mr. Percy Wilson presented a report on part of the program arranged for holding field excursions.

The Secretary read a communication from the Kansas Academy of Science, announcing a proposed celebration of a semi-centennial anniversary of the Society. Professor Raymond J. Pool, of the University of Nebraska, was appointed delegate of the Torrey Club to attend the meetings to be held March 15 and 16.

The announced scientific program: "Gill fungi of Tropical

North America," Dr. W. A. Murrill; "Botanizing with a Camera" Mrs. E. G. Britton, was carried out and other members of the Club also presented photographs for inspection and took part in the discussions.

Mrs. Britton stated that she had been lecturing to schools and local Garden Clubs on "*Botanizing with a Camera*" and gave a brief abstract of her methods of illustrating this lecture and of encouraging the *teachers* and *children* to take pictures in their localities. She exhibited a series of lantern slides and photographs from J. Horace McFarland Co., of Harrisburg, Pa., and followed it with ten books of hand-colored photographs made by Miss Elsie M. Kittredge, including about 1,800 photographs representing 800 species, as color records for her sets of lantern slides, all of which were much admired and appreciated by the members present. Mrs. Britton also showed a set of uncolored photographs taken by Asahel Curtis on the slopes of Mt. Rainier, Washington, including many beautiful wild flowers, and stated that Dr. Kirkwood had been able to recognize and name many of them for her.

Mr. O. P. Medsger of Arlington, N. J., also exhibited some photographs of wild flowers with their insect visitors.

B. O. Dodge demonstrated the use of stereoscopic views in connection with studies of rusts and other small plants. Some of the views shown were photographs taken with a binocular microscope camera. He explained how stereoscopic views could be taken with the ordinary camera.

Dr. R. M. Harper, who has been interested for many years in making stereoscopic pictures of plant life, explained his method of taking the views with the ordinary camera.

Dr. W. A. Murrill spoke of his investigations of the gill-fungi of tropical North America, which he has just completed, the final paper on this subject appearing in the March number of *Mycologia*. "Some of the larger genera were mentioned and the number of species in them compared with those of temperate regions. Of the 525 tropical species recognized by Dr. Murrill in his studies, 300 have been described by him as new.

Although the material in hand has all been worked over, this

does not mean that the work on tropical gill-fungi has been completed. Indeed, it has just begun, and collectors will now have a basis on which to do more satisfactory work. Mexico has hardly been touched and the same may be said for Santo Domingo and many other parts of the West Indies, as well as nearly all of Central America. Cuba is fairly well known from the extensive collections of Charles Wright, and from the work of many recent collectors. Martinique and Guadeloupe have been rather thoroughly worked by Pere Duss who sent his collections to Patouillard to be named. Jamaica is better known mycologically than Porto Rico, so far as the larger fungi are concerned, but both of these islands need to be worked more carefully.

If a careful mycologist could spend half of his time in tropical North America making specimens, notes and drawings, and the remainder in a good herbarium and library working them up, the results accomplished would be noteworthy.

Dr. Murrill discussed at length the wide difference existing between the species found in our tropics and in the temperate regions of North America, and he described and tried to explain the sporadic and scattered occurrence of the gill-fungi in portions of the tropics that he had visited. Professor Fink, who has recently been to Porto Rico, ascribes the infrequent occurrence of the gill fungi there partly to the great tropical heat and also to the fact that the development of the hymenophores is often spread equally throughout the year, instead of taking place all at once, as in colder climates."

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE, *Secretary*

NEWS ITEMS

The Ecological Society of America in its *Bulletin* for March, 1918 (Vol. 2, no. 3), gives a most interesting report from the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions for Ecological Study. This Committee was appointed in the summer of 1917 and consists of twenty members who are seeking information for a card index of all important ecological areas